

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached Replacement sheets of drawings including Figures 1 to 5 replace the original sheets containing Figures 1 to 5. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Attachment: three (3) Replacement sheets

**REMARKS**

**I. Introduction**

With the cancellation of claims 14 and 20 and the addition of claim 27, claims 15 to 19 and 21 to 27 are currently pending in the present application, since claims 1 to 13 were previously canceled. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statements, PTO-1449 papers, and cited references. With respect to the references disclosed in the prior Information Disclosure Statement, which were apparently not provided by the International Search Authority, Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449 paper, which includes previously disclosed courtesy copies of the references. Accordingly, no fees are believed to be due.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because of lack of labels and for the omission of a legend from figures 4 and 5 designating them as “prior art.” Applicants have amended the drawings to obviate the present objections. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claim 22 for lack of sufficient antecedent basis for “the increment.” Claim 22 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 21, thereby obviating the present objection. Withdrawal of the present objection to claim 22 is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claim 14 as assertedly being vague. While the basis for this objection is not understood, claim 14 has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby obviating the present objection.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 15 to 17 and 21 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 15 (from which claims 16 and 17 depend) and 21 has been rewritten in independent form and to include the subject matter of its respective base claim. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 18 and 19 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim

15. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 22 to 24 and 26 has been amended herein without prejudice so that claims 22 to 26 ultimately depend from claim 21. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 15 to 19 and 21 to 26 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby obviating the remaining rejections.

New claim 27 has been added herein. Claim 27 does not add new matter and is supported by the present application, including the specification, as originally filed. Claim 27 depends from claim 15 and is therefore in condition for immediate allowance by virtue of its dependency from claim 15.

Accordingly, all of pending claims 15 to 19 and 21 to 27 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 15 to 19 and 21 to 27 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Aaron Grunberger/  
Aaron Grunberger (Reg. No. 59,210) for:

Gerard A. Messina (Reg. No. 35,952)  
KENYON & KENYON LLP  
One Broadway  
New York, New York 10004  
(212) 425-7200  
**CUSTOMER NO. 26646**